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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Interagency Intelligence Advisory Group on Exchanges

SUBJECT : Environmental Bilateral-Influence of Environmental Changes on Climate, Cooperation in Polar Research

REFERENCE : Opinion Request, 14 September 1973

The proposed program on cooperation in polar research has evolved during several years of negotiations between the National Science Foundation and the USSR's Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Research Institute (AANII). The goals are realistic and should provide a balance of benefits to the respective parties. Care should be taken, however, to insure a reasonable maintenance of the quid-pro-quo during implementation. The following suggestions are made to strengthen the proposal:

a. Reference paragraph C. 1. b., Exchange of Specialists. We strongly support the choice of an information specialist as the initial US working visitor to the USSR because the success of the proposed cooperative programs will depend to a large degree on the US's ability to obtain current information on USSR plans and programs. The US specialist will presumably work primarily at AANII in Leningrad. Agreement should be reached with the Soviets to allow the specialist to visit other major Arctic facilities, particularly the Institute of Arctic Geology (NIIGA) in Leningrad, AANII and NIIGA branches in Murmansk, and the Main Geophysical Observatory in Leningrad.

b. Reference paragraph C. 2., Joint Participation in Field Experiments. Both parties have expressed interest in coordination of the US AIDJEX program with the USSR POLEX program. During April 1972 the US hosted a group of Soviet visitors to the AIDJEX research base in the Arctic. Although the USSR operated a large POLEX Base during April 1973 it did not reciprocate with an invitation for a US visit. The US offer of Soviet participation in AIDJEX during March/April 1974 should be coupled with a request for participation of a US scientist at the equivalent Soviet base "North Pole-22."

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